

RECEIVED

551377

Carol Hanlon
US Department of Energy
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office (MS #025)
PO Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

OCT 10 2001

October 2, 2001

RE: Public Comment on Yucca Mountain

Dear Ms. Hanlon,

The Gateway Green Alliance is dedicated to environmental and social justice and with these issues in mind we are opposed to the use of the Yucca Mountain site to serve as a repository for radioactive waste.

Our concerns include the geological stability of the site and the accident potential in transporting such a large amounts of waste across the United States.

The Yucca Mountain site is seismically unstable and therefore a poor choice for storing materials over an unimaginably lengthy time. The half-life of plutonium-239 is over 24,000 years! The half-life of cesium-135 is over 2 million years! It is difficult to believe that these materials can be stored safely in an area with the potential of an earthquake for such an extended period.

Transportation of nuclear waste presents another set of problems that will affect thousands of US citizens. Accidents do happen and just recently, here in St. Louis, a train derailment in a local municipality (Webster Groves) spilled 13 cars of coal onto the tracks adjacent to many homes. This would prove to be disastrous in the event of a nuclear waste spill. Railroad tracks run through many communities in the United States. With the recent terrorist attack in New York, the transport of dangerous materials takes on an even more ominous challenge.

The plain truth about nuclear waste is that there is no good solution for its long time storage. The federal government must stop allowing the continued production of nuclear waste until a solution can be found to deal with the existing waste that is piling up around nuclear power plants and military installations.

Sincerely,



Barbara Chicherio
Co coordinator, Gateway Green Alliance
PO Box 8094
St. Louis, Mo. 63156